

# DIVISION REPORTS

## CUTTING OUT DISSECTION

NAHEE

The National Association for Humane and Environmental Education (NAHEE) has recently made great progress in its ongoing campaign to eliminate dissection at the elementary and secondary school levels. More and more educators are concluding that the traditional goals of dissection do not justify the taking of animal life or inflicting pain and stress on sentient beings.

There is also growing concern that students are choosing not to participate in science programs because of dissection requirements. Many students fear that their ethical concerns

will be perceived as squeamishness. Others suppress their concerns by developing a callous, use-oriented attitude toward other living creatures in order to fulfill course dissection requirements.

In 1988 NAHEE's suggestions were instrumental in the revision of the Holt, Rinehart & Winston *Modern Biology* laboratory manual. The revised version includes information on alternatives to dissection and the rationale for rejecting dissection in favor of more humane animal studies. Given biology teachers' heavy reliance on laboratory manuals for students, the Holt, Rinehart decision continues to have a major impact.

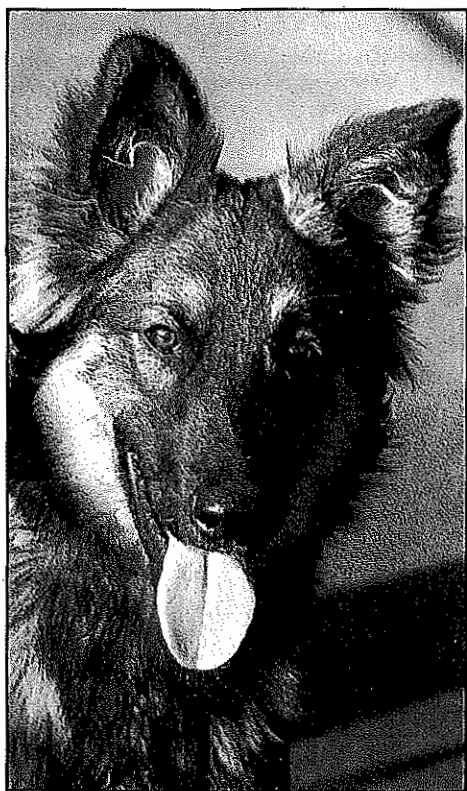
Last year, NAHEE and HSUS staff members worked

closely with the prestigious National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT) in reviewing drafts of its now published book, *The Responsible Use of Animals in Biology Classrooms including Alternatives to Dissection*. Several NAHEE materials, most notably our *Alternatives to Dissection*, appear in the book's reference section.

*Alternatives to Dissection* contains thirteen project alternatives to dissection designed to meet traditional objectives, such as knowledge of comparative, structural, and functional anatomy. Also included are student activity sheets, a comprehensive list of resources, and position statements from various organizations. The packet sells for \$5 and includes a copy of *The Liv-*

*ing Science: A Humane Approach to the Study of Animals in Elementary and Secondary School Biology*.

As part of our alliance with NABT, NAHEE staff members gave a one-hour workshop at its national conference. NAHEE staff also presented a workshop at the annual conference of the Science Teachers Association of New York State. In response to concerns raised by participants at that conference, NAHEE is currently investigating the New York state-wide regents exam. According to NABT, this exam contains questions about dissected specimens and dissection procedures. If that is the case, NAHEE will be working to have such test questions replaced. ■



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Your will can provide for animals after you're gone.

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Mail in confidence to: Murdaugh S. Madden, Vice President/Senior Counsel, The Humane Society of the United States, 2100 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037.